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Thirty-Seven African Countries Eligible To Gain Under Trade Act

Thirty-seven African countries are eligible for economic and trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), President Bush determined December 22. The action was announced in a statement by the White House press secretary.

AGOA was signed into law on May 18, 2000, as Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. The act offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue their efforts to open their

economies and build free markets. The original act has been amended twice and enhanced by Congress since it was first enacted.

In 2005, Burundi became an AGOA beneficiary country and Mauritania



was removed from the list of eligible countries. AGOA benefits are available only to countries that are making contin-

ued progress toward a market-based economy, the rule of law, free trade, economic policies that will reduce poverty and protection of workers' rights.

By providing African countries greater access to American markets, AGOA spurs development in these countries, thus fostering new trade and economic opportunities and promoting shared values and responsibilities.

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On Anniversary of Tsunami, President Bush Cites "Days of Sorrow"



On the first anniversary of the tsunami a widower in Sri Lanka prays at the place his wife lost her life. (©AP/WWP)

President Bush, on the one-year anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami

In a December 26 statement, the president said, "[W]e remember those

that claimed more than 200,000 lives, reaffirmed the commitment "to helping the citizens of affected nations rebuild their economies, communities, and lives."

days of sorrow, and we recall acts of courage and kindness as America and many other nations rallied to help those in need and provide urgent relief."

A statement released by the State Department December 26 said, "The response to natural disasters around the world this past year, including here in the United States, demonstrated that the international community can join together and re-

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